



MARYLAND Department of Health

Public Health Preparedness and Situational Awareness Report: #2020:48

Reporting for the week ending 11/28/20 (MMWR Week #48)

December 4th, 2020

CURRENT HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT LEVELS

National: No Active Alerts

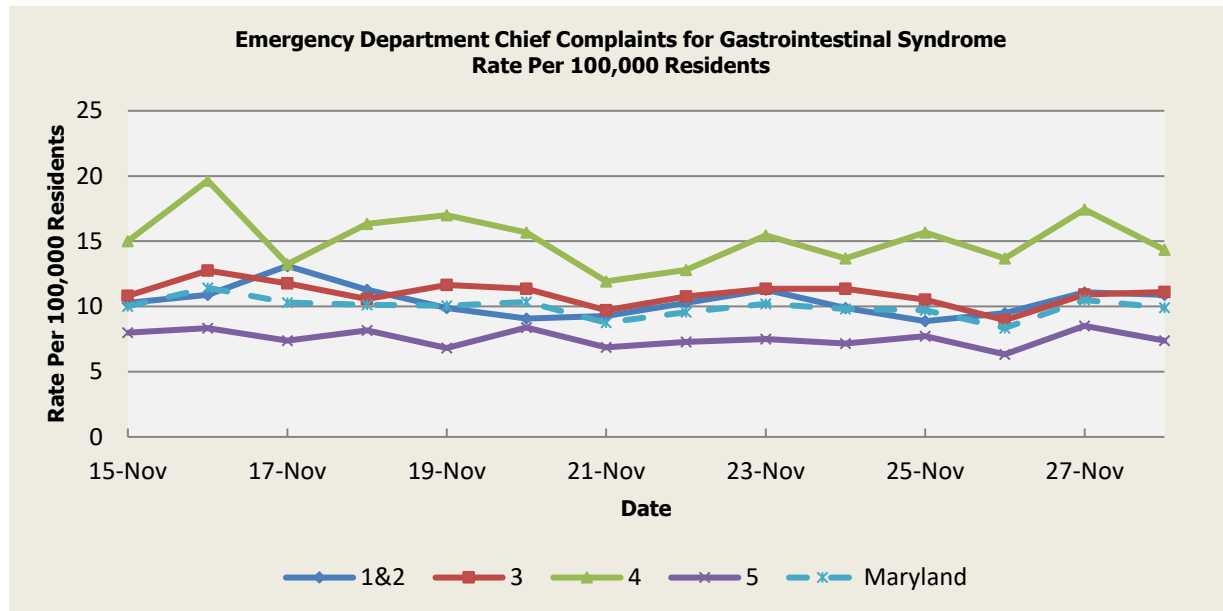
Maryland: **ENHANCED** (MEMA status)

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE REPORTS

ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics): Graphical representation is provided for all syndromes (excluding the “Other” category; see Appendix 1) by Health and Medical Regions (See Appendix 2). Emergency department chief complaint data is presented as rates per 100,000 residents using data from the 2010 census. Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Baltimore, MD: Maryland Department of Health; 2020.

(report continues on next page)

Gastrointestinal Syndrome



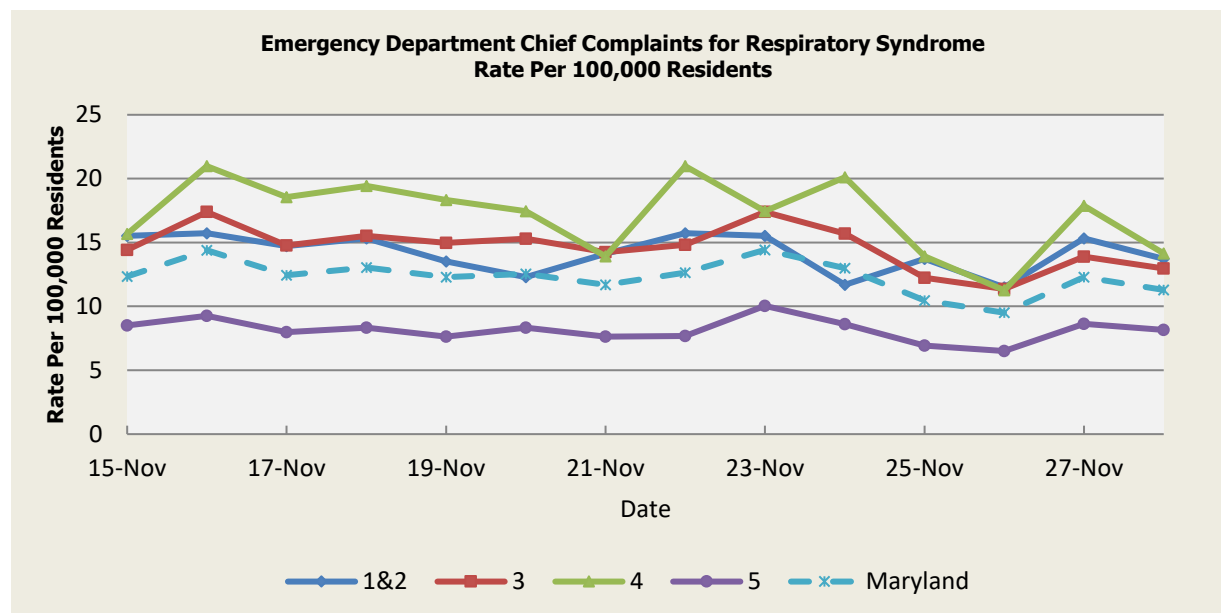
There were no Gastrointestinal Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Gastrointestinal Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	13.20	14.85	15.84	10.13	12.98
Median Rate*	13.11	14.69	15.46	10.08	12.93

** Per 100,000 Residents*

(report continues on next page)

Respiratory Syndrome



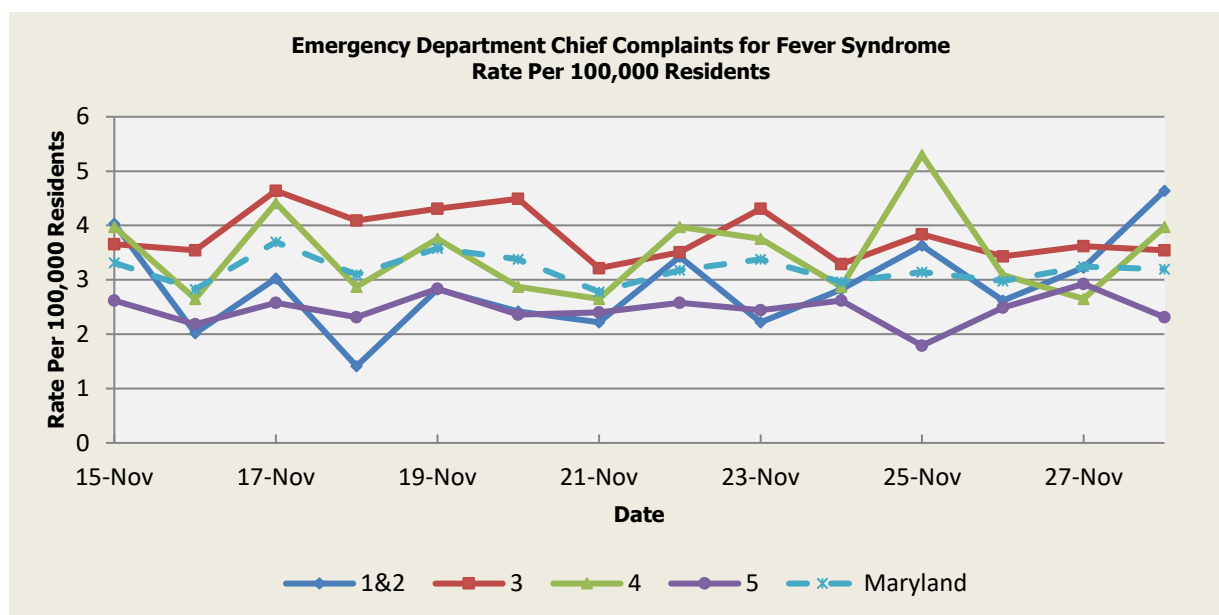
There were one hundred and nineteen (119) Respiratory Syndrome outbreaks reported this week: Nineteen (19) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities (Regions 4,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Day Program (Region 3), sixteen (16) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Daycare Centers (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Emergency Medical Services (Regions 1&2), thirty one (31) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Group Homes (Regions 3,4,5), thirteen (13) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Hospitals (Regions 3,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in an Independent Living Facility (Region 3), fourteen (14) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes (Regions 3,4,5), three (3) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Outpatient Facilities (Regions 1&2,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Religious Organization (Regions 1&2), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Residential Home for Children (Region 3), seven (7) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Schools (Regions 3,5), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Shelters (Region 3), six (6) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Workplaces (Regions 1&2,3,5).

Respiratory Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	12.44	14.75	15.17	9.98	12.76
Median Rate*	12.10	14.10	14.35	9.60	12.21

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Fever Syndrome



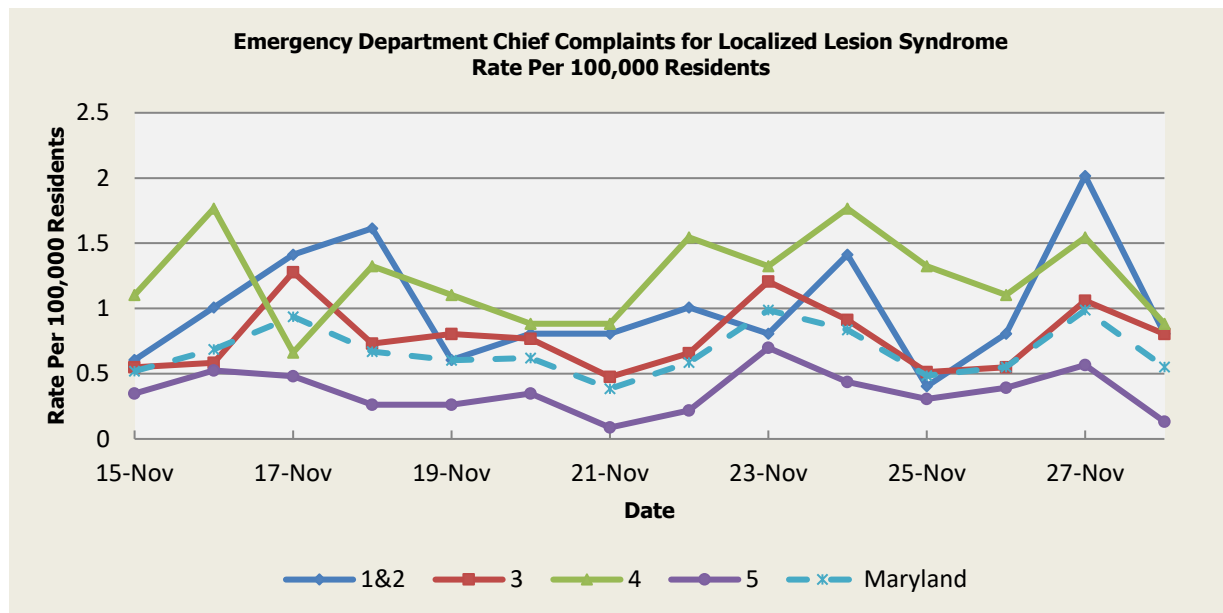
There were no Fever Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Fever Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.06	3.90	4.13	3.03	3.51
Median Rate*	3.02	3.76	3.97	2.92	3.38

**Per 100,000 Residents*

(report continues on next page)

Localized Lesion Syndrome



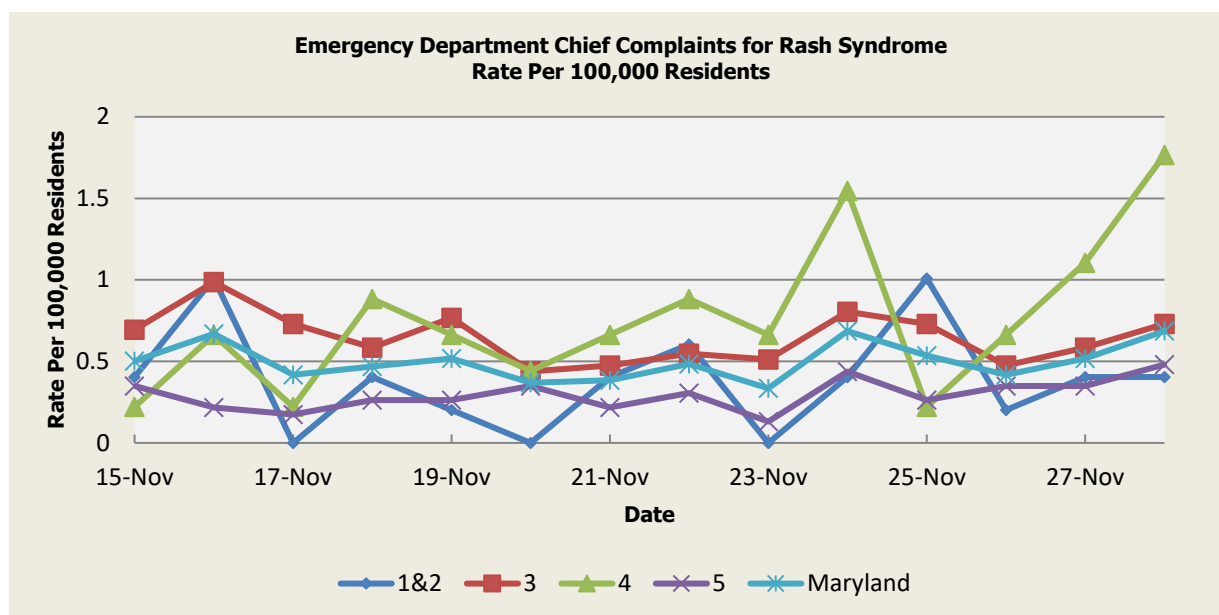
There were no Localized Lesion Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Localized Lesion Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.16	1.71	1.99	0.87	1.36
Median Rate*	1.01	1.64	1.99	0.83	1.32

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Rash Syndrome



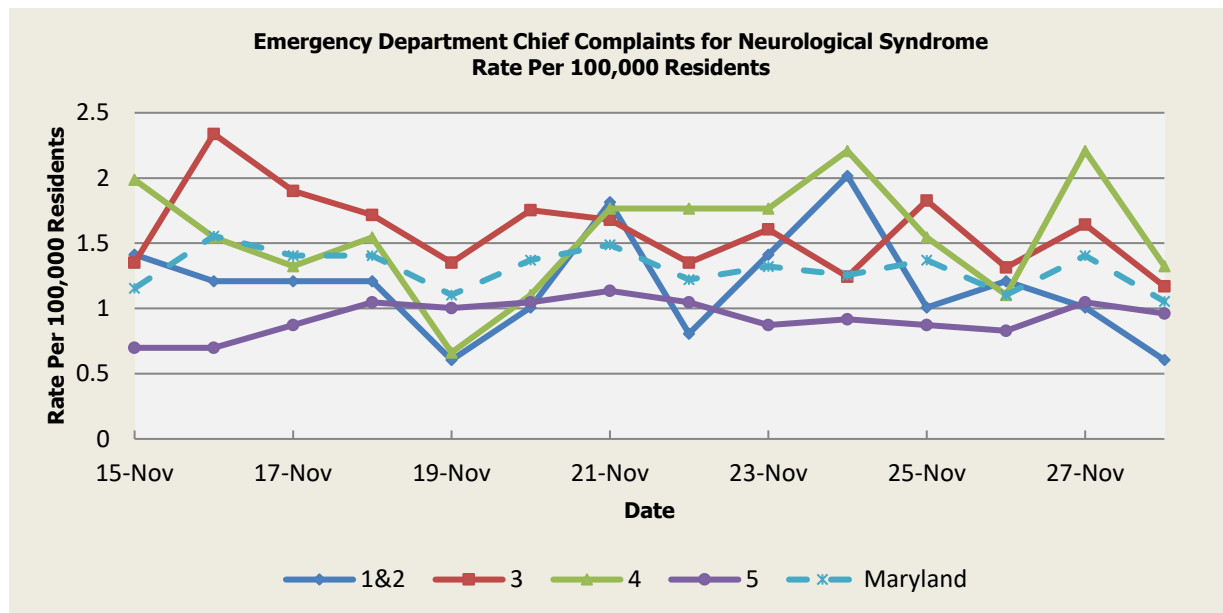
There were no Rash Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Rash Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.20	1.59	1.69	0.93	1.31
Median Rate*	1.21	1.53	1.55	0.89	1.29

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Neurological Syndrome



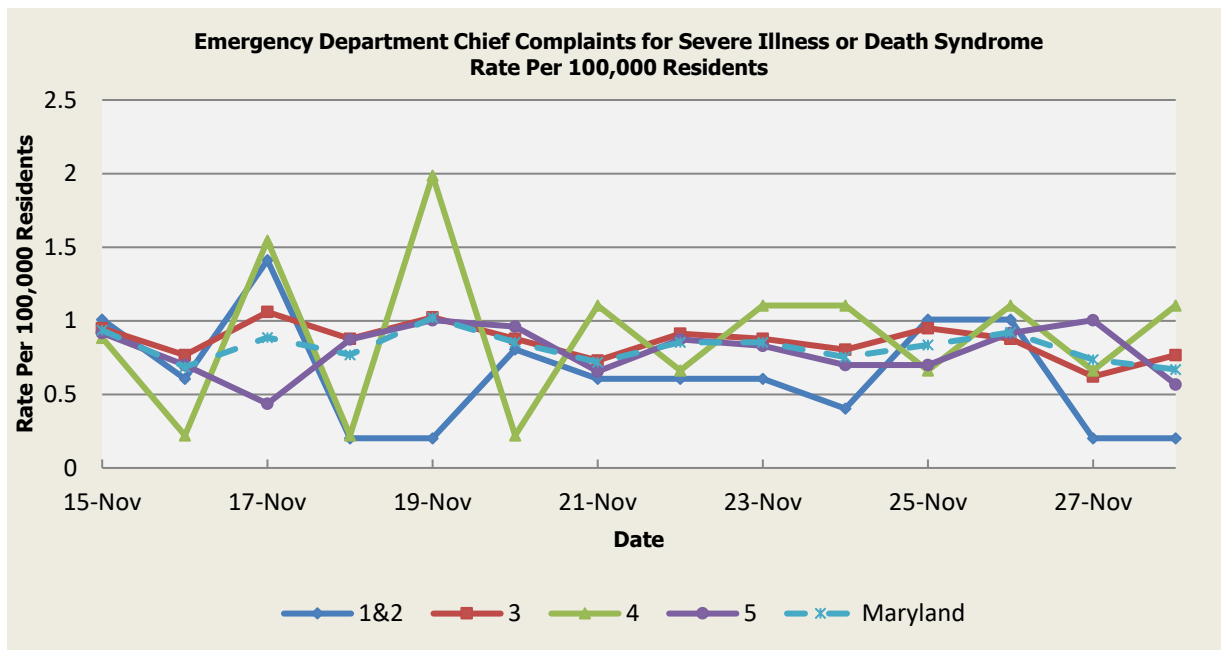
There were no Neurological Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Neurological Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.82	1.01	0.93	0.65	0.85
Median Rate*	0.81	0.95	0.88	0.61	0.80

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Severe Illness or Death Syndrome



There were no Severe Illness or Death Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

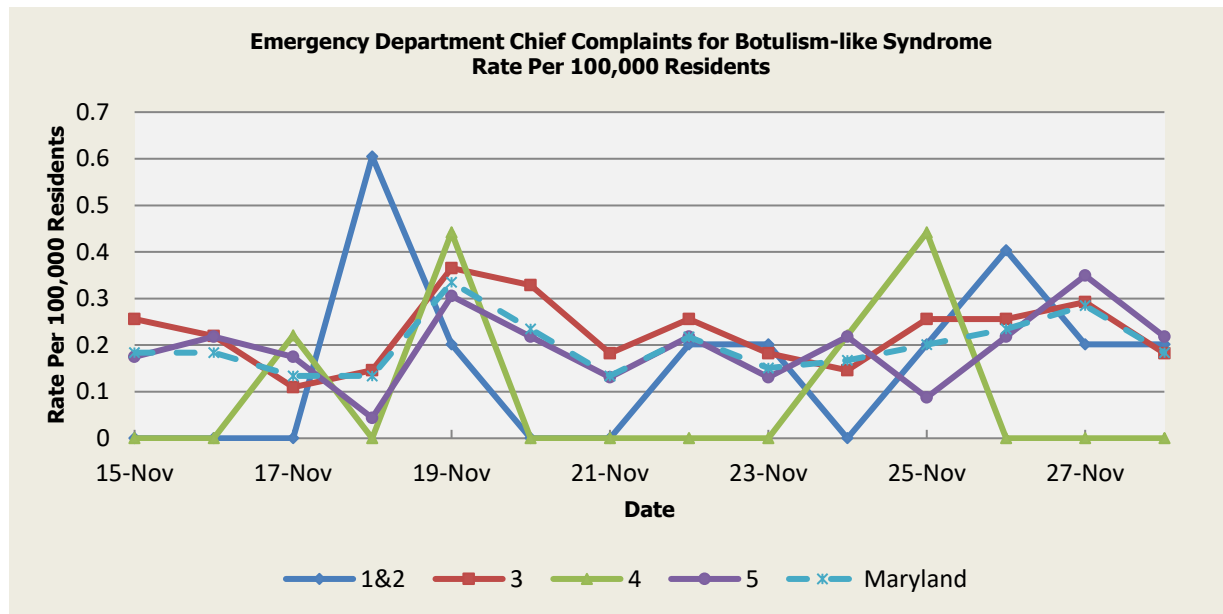
Severe Illness or Death Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.65	0.88	0.84	0.54	0.73
Median Rate*	0.60	0.84	0.88	0.52	0.70

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

SYNDROMES RELATED TO CATEGORY A AGENTS

Botulism-like Syndrome



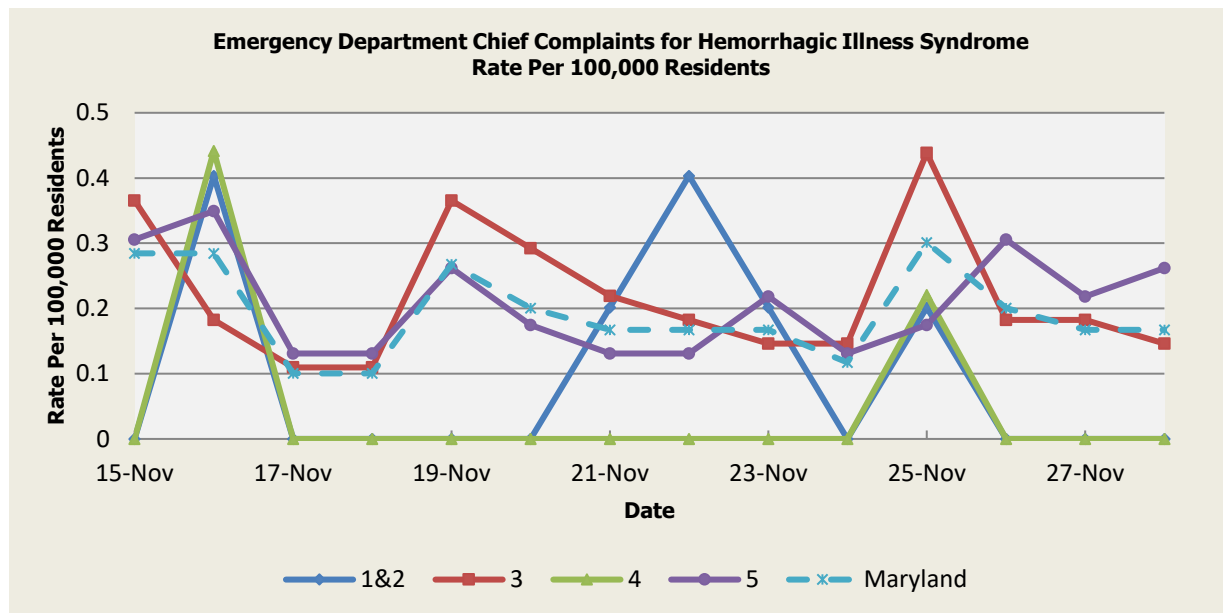
There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Botulism-like Syndrome on 11/16 (Region 5), 11/17 (Region 4), 11/18 (Regions 1&2), 11/19 (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), 11/20 (Regions 3,5), 11/22 (Regions 1&2,5), 11/23 (Regions 1&2), 11/24 (Regions 4,5), 11/25 (Regions 1&2,4), 11/26 (Regions 1&2,5), 11/27 (Regions 1&2,3,5), 11/28 (Regions 1&2,5). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

Botulism-like Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.08	0.13	0.06	0.09	0.11
Median Rate*	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.10

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome



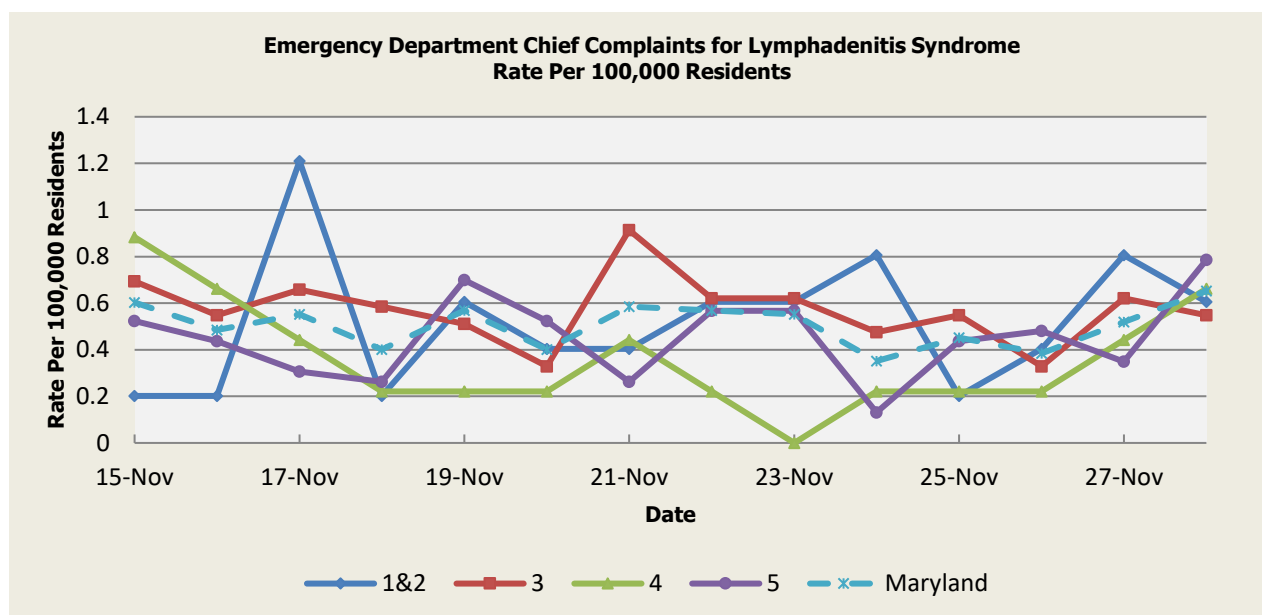
There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome on 11/15 (Regions 3,5), 11/16 (Regions 1&2,4,5), 11/19 (Region 3), 11/21 (Regions 1&2), 11/22 (Regions 1&2), 11/23 (Regions 1&2), 11/25 (Regions 1&2,3,4), 11/26 (Region 5). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.05	0.17	0.04	0.15	0.14
Median Rate*	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.10

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Lymphadenitis Syndrome



There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Lymphadenitis Syndrome on 11/15 (Region 4), 11/17 (Regions 1&2), 11/24 (Regions 1&2), 11/27 (Regions 1&2). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

Lymphadenitis Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.40	0.60	0.41	0.40	0.49
Median Rate*	0.40	0.55	0.44	0.35	0.47

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

MARYLAND REPORTABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary

On March 5th, 2020, the Maryland Department of Health announced the first cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated COVID-19) in the State of Maryland.

Confirmed COVID-19 Case Counts in Maryland by County (As of December 4th, 2020)

County	Number of Confirmed Cases
Allegany	3,900
Anne Arundel	17,627
Baltimore City	25,686
Baltimore County	30,671
Calvert	1,687
Caroline	1,030
Carroll	3,517
Cecil	2,288
Charles	4,593
Dorchester	1,045
Frederick	7,425
Garrett	915
Harford	6,405
Howard	8,561
Kent	486
Montgomery	35,056
Prince George's	43,000
Queen Anne's	1,159
Somerset	1,127
St. Mary's	2,295
Talbot	848
Washington	4,764
Wicomico	3,570
Worcester	1,536
Total	209,191

The most up-to-date information may be found on the Maryland Department of Health website at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov>.

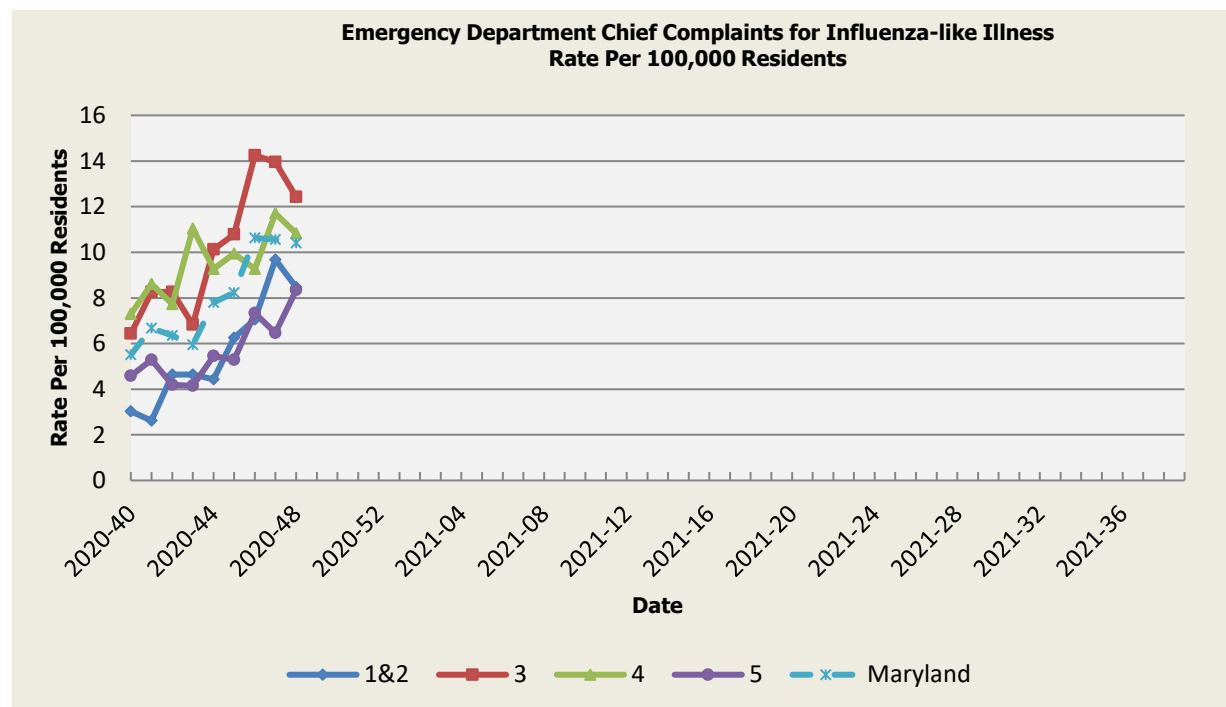
(report continues on next page)

SYNDROMIC INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

Seasonal Influenza reporting occurs from MMWR Week 40 through MMWR Week 20 (October 2020 through May 2021). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, influenza reporting will be extended to the beginning of the 2021-2022 reporting season (MMWR Week 40/Week Ending October 9, 2021).

Seasonal Influenza activity for Week 48 was: Minimal

Influenza-like Illness

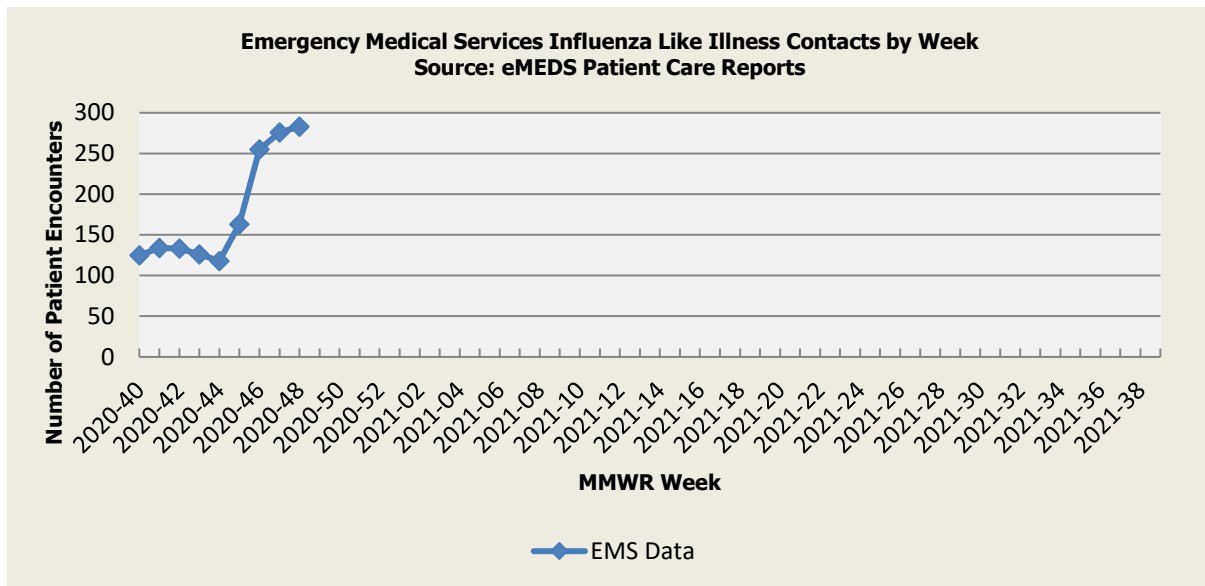


Influenza-like Illness Baseline Data Week 1 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	10.25	14.09	13.40	11.85	12.86
Median Rate*	7.66	10.41	9.50	8.77	9.49

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

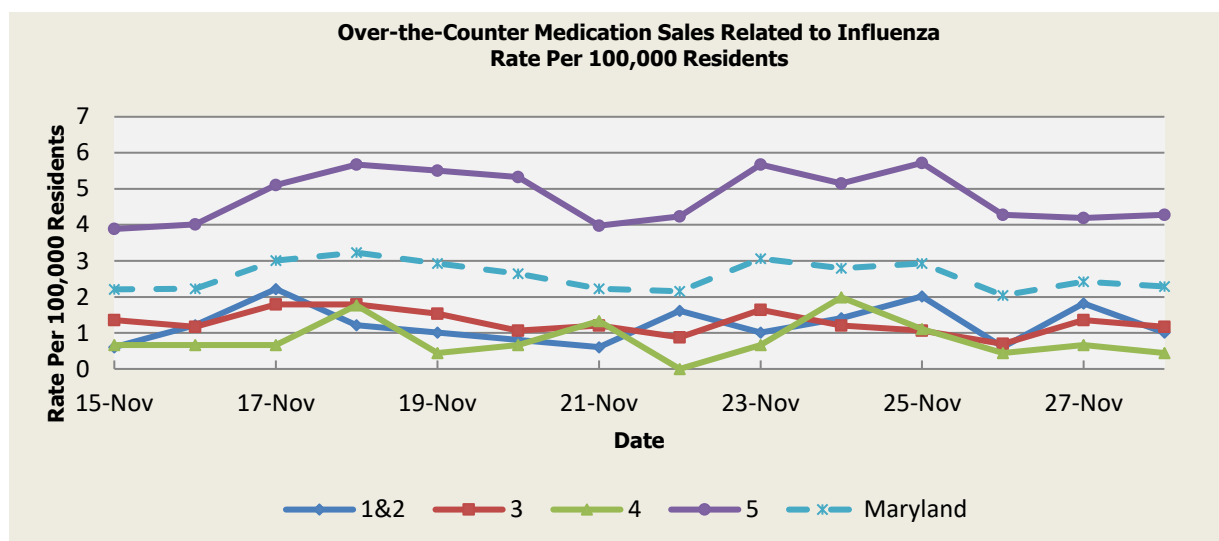
Influenza-like Illness Contacts by Week



Disclaimer on eMEDS flu related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has selected “flu like illness” as a primary or secondary impression of a patient’s illness. This impression is solely based on the signs and symptoms seen by the provider, not on any diagnostic tests. Since these numbers do not include all primary or secondary impressions that may be seen with influenza the actual numbers may be low. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

(report continues on next page)

Over-the-Counter Influenza-Related Medication Sales



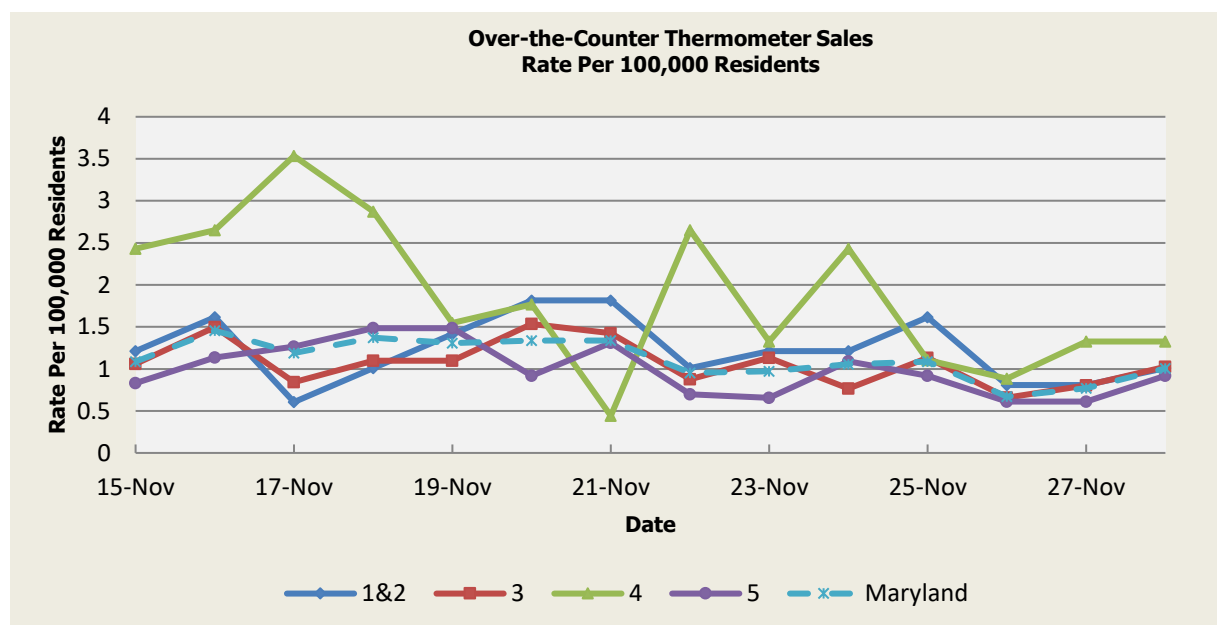
There was no appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of OTC Medication Sales during this reporting period.

OTC Medication Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.26	4.16	2.55	7.48	5.23
Median Rate*	2.62	3.18	2.21	6.64	4.43

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Over-the-Counter Thermometer Sales



There was no appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of OTC Thermometer Sales during this reporting period.

Thermometer Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	2.72	2.58	2.10	3.42	2.88
Median Rate*	2.42	2.52	1.99	3.41	2.89

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

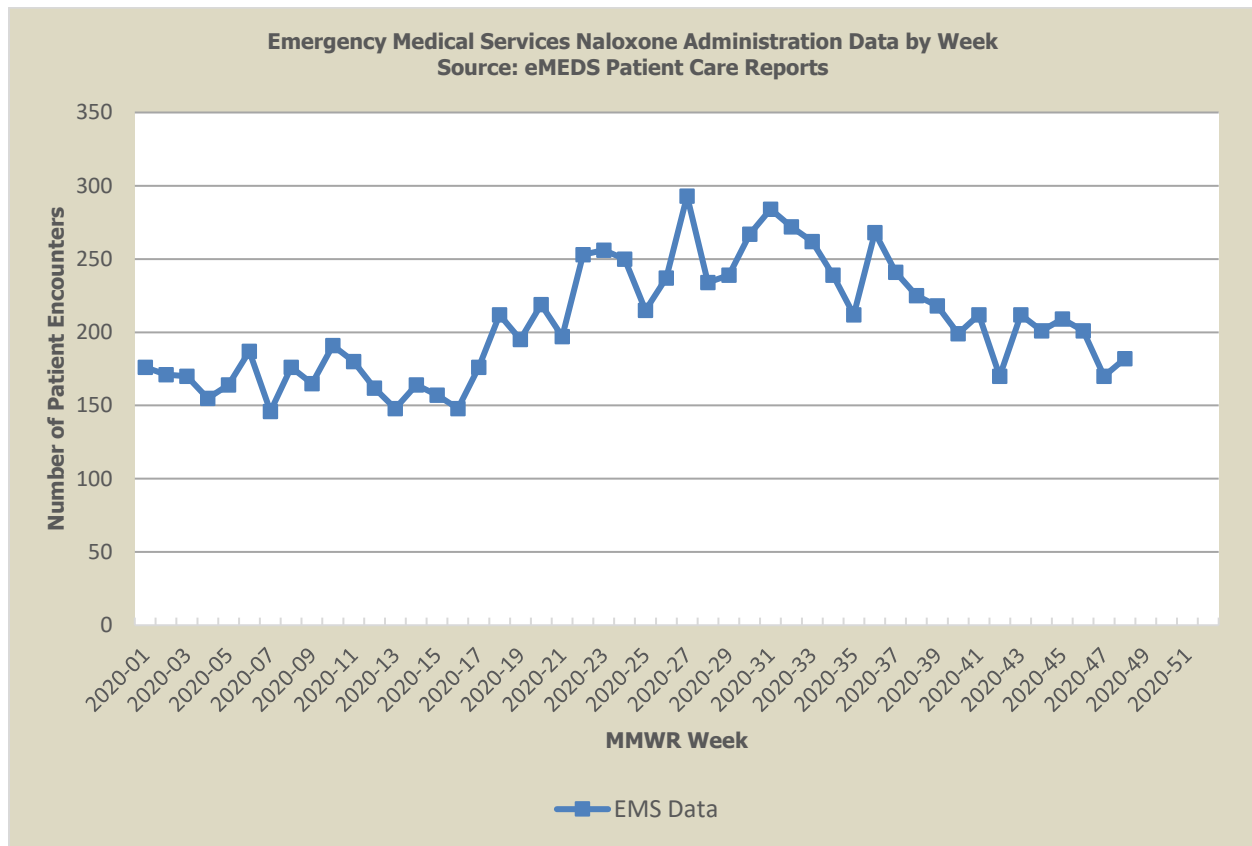
SYNDROMIC OVERDOSE SURVEILLANCE

The purpose of this section is to characterize non-fatal ED visit trends for acute unintentional overdose by Heroin, Opioid or Unspecified substance among Maryland residents captured by ESSENCE data, including chief complaint and discharge diagnosis. ED visits that are identified as unintentional overdose by Heroin, Opioid or Unspecified substance include those with medical and non-medical use of a prescription Opioid or where the substance is not specified, given evidence that most fatal overdoses are Opioid-related.

In preparation for the release of new ESSENCE queries for identifying heroin, opioid and all drug overdoses, please note that we have removed the data chart showing unintentional overdose rates by heroin, opioid, or unspecified substances. These new data, when available, will be presented below.

(report continues on next page)

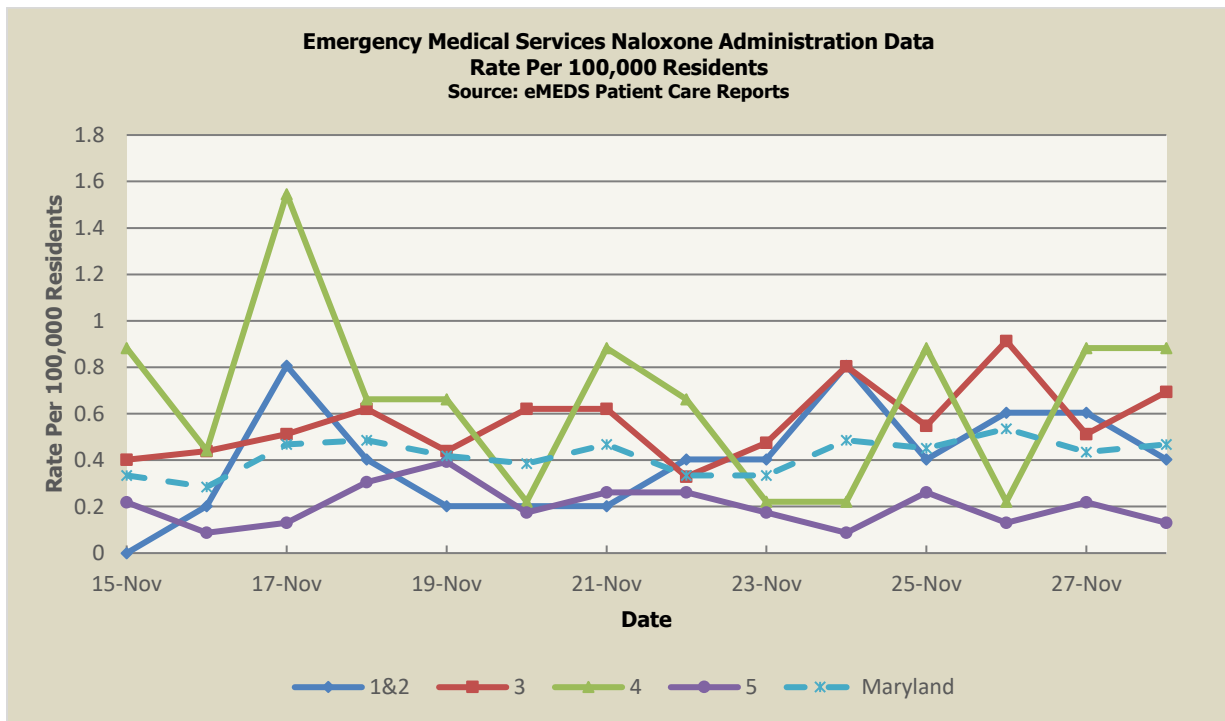
Naloxone Administration Data by Week



Disclaimer on eMEDS naloxone administration related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has documented that they administered naloxone. The administration of naloxone is based on the patient's signs and symptoms and not on any diagnostic tests. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

(report continues on next page)

Naloxone Administration Data



Disclaimer on eMEDS Naloxone administration related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has documented that they administered naloxone. The administration of naloxone is based on the patient's signs and symptoms and not on any diagnostic tests. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

(report continues on next page)

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA UPDATE / AVIAN INFLUENZA-RELATED REPORTS

WHO update: The current WHO phase of pandemic alert for avian influenza is ALERT. Currently, the avian influenza H5N1 virus continues to circulate in poultry in some countries, especially in Asia and northeast Africa. This virus continues to cause sporadic human infections with some instances of limited human-to-human transmission among very close contacts. There has been no sustained human-to-human or community-level transmission identified thus far.

Influenza A (H7N9) is one of a subgroup of influenza viruses that normally circulate among birds. Until recently, this virus had not been seen in people. However, human infections have now been detected. Presently, there is limited information about the scope of the disease the virus causes and about the source of exposure. The disease is of concern because most patients have been severely ill. There is no indication thus far that it can be transmitted between people, but both animal-to-human and human-to-human routes of transmission are being actively investigated.

Alert phase: This is the phase when influenza caused by a new subtype has been identified in humans. Increased vigilance and careful risk assessment, at local, national, and global levels are characteristic of this phase. If the risk assessments indicate that the new virus is not developing into a pandemic strain, a de-escalation of activities towards those in the interpandemic phase may occur. As of December 4th, 2020, the WHO-confirmed global total (2003-2020) of human cases of H5N1 avian influenza virus infection stands at 861, of which 455 have been fatal. Thus, the case fatality rate for human H5N1 is approximately 53%.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

AVIAN INFLUENZA (SOUTH KOREA), 2 December 2020, Information received on [and dated] 30 Nov 2020 from Dr. Dae Gyun Kim, Chief Veterinary Officer, Director General, Animal Health Policy Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Sejong-si, Korea (Rep. of). Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7986533>

AVIAN INFLUENZA (UNITED KINGDOM), 30 November 2020, An outbreak of bird flu at a Blackpool park has resulted in the deaths of 9 swans. Last week [16-22 Nov 2020], officials from the RSPCA and the Department for Environmental and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) were called to Stanley Park lake in Blackpool. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7982468>

HUMAN AVIAN INFLUENZA

There were no relevant human avian influenza reports this week

NATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

BOTULISM (COLORADO), 3 December 2020, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has investigated several cases of confirmed or suspected foodborne botulism in the state since September 2020. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7990724>

WEST NILE VIRUS (FLORIDA), 3 December 2020, The Florida Department of Health [FDOH] confirmed a positive human case of West Nile virus in Martin County on Monday [30 Nov 2020] -- the 1st in 2 decades, FDOH data shows. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7989173>

INTERNATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (GLOBAL), 3 December 2020. World Health Organization expert groups recommended mortality trials of 4 repurposed antiviral drugs -- remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir, and interferon beta-1a -- in patients hospitalized with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7989980>

HEPATITIS E (BURKINA FASO), 2 December 2020, Between 8 Sep 2020 and 24 Nov 2020, the North-Central region of Burkina Faso reported a cumulative total of 442 cases of febrile jaundice. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7988324>

MEASLES UPDATE (BOLIVIA), 30 November 2020, Measles] has been controlled in the country for 20 years, and it is possible that its return is due to the suspension of vaccinations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7983214>

INFLUENZA (CANADA), 29 November 2020, On 7 Oct 2020, a patient in Alberta, Canada presented to a rural hospital with a 4-day history of cough, fever, pharyngitis, and rhinorrhea. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7978160>

WEST NILE VIRUS (SPAIN), 28 November 2020, between 13 and 19 Nov 2020, EU Member States reported one new human case of WNV [West Nile virus] infection. The case was reported by the Netherlands from the region of Arnhem/Nijmegen. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7960818>

UNDIAGNOSED SKIN DISEASE (SENEGAL), 27 November 2020, I have never seen monkeypox, but I have seen rare cases of smallpox and plenty of chickenpox in adults, particularly on dark skin. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=7976577>

OTHER RESOURCES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

More information concerning Public Health and Emergency Preparedness can be found at the Office of Preparedness and Response website: <http://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/> or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MarylandOPR.

More data and information on influenza can be found on the MDH website:
<http://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/Pages/Home.aspx>

Please participate in the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System (MRITS):
<http://flusurvey.health.maryland.gov>

NOTE: This weekly review is a compilation of data from various surveillance systems, interpreted with a focus on a potential BT event. It is not meant to be inclusive of all epidemiology data available, nor is it meant to imply that every activity reported is a definitive BT event. International reports of outbreaks due to organisms on the CDC Critical Biological Agent list will also be reported. While not "secure", please handle this information in a professional manner. Please feel free to distribute within your organization, as you feel appropriate, to other professional staff involved in emergency preparedness and infection control.

For questions about the content of this review or if you have received this and do not wish to receive these weekly notices, please e-mail us. If you have information that is pertinent to this notification process, please send it to us to be included in the routine report.

Prepared By:

Office of Preparedness and Response, Maryland Department of Health
7462 Candlewood Rd, Hanover, MD 21076

Peter Fotang, MD, MPH
Epidemiologist, Biosurveillance Program
Office: 443-628-6555
Email: Peter.Fotang@maryland.gov

Jennifer Stanley, MPH
Epidemiologist, Biosurveillance Program
Office: 443-628-6575
Email: Jennifer.Stanley@maryland.gov

Jessica Acharya (Goodell), MPH
Career Epidemiology Field Officer, CDC
Office: 443-628-6583
Email: Jessica.Acharya@maryland.gov

Appendix 1: ESSENCE Syndrome Definitions and Associated Category A Conditions

Syndrome	ESSENCE Definition	Category A Conditions
Botulism-like	(Botulism or (DifficultyFocusing and DifficultySpeaking) or (DifficultySpeaking and DifficultySwallowing) or (DifficultySwallowing and DifficultyFocusing) or DoubleVision or FacialParalysis or GuillainBarre or Ptosis) and not GeneralExclusions	Botulism
Fever	(Chills or (FeverPlus and (Drowsiness or Seizure)) or FeverOnly or SepsisGroup or ViralSyndrome) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Gastrointestinal	(AbdominalCramps or AbdominalPainGroup or Diarrhea or FoodPoisoning or Gastroenteritis or GIBleeding or Peritonitis or Vomiting) and not (GeneralExclusions or Gynecological or Obstetric or Reproductive or UrinaryTract)	Anthrax (gastrointestinal)
Hemorrhagic Illness	(FeverOrChills and (AcuteBloodAbnormalitiesGroup or BleedingFromMouth or BleedingGums or GIBleeding or Hematemesis or Hemoptysis or Nosebleed or Petechiae or Purpura)) and not GeneralExclusions	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever
Localized Lesion	(Boils or Bump or Carbuncle or DepressedUlcer or Eschar or Furuncle or InsectBite or SkinAbscess or (SkinSores and not AllOverBody) or SkinUlcer or SpiderBite) and not (GeneralExclusions or Decubitus or Diabetes or StasisUlcer)	Anthrax (cutaneous) Tularemia
Lymphadenitis	(BloodPoisoning or Bubo or CatScratchDisease or SwollenGlands) and not GeneralExclusions	Plague (bubonic)
Neurological	(([Age<75] and AlteredMentalStatus) or (FeverPlus and (Confusion or Drowsiness or Petechiae or StiffNeck)) or Delirium or Encephalitis or Meningitis or UnconsciousGroup) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Rash	(ChickenPox or Measles or RashGeneral or Roseola or (Rubella and not Pregnancy) or Shingles or (SkinSores and AllOverBody) or Smallpox) and not GeneralExclusions	Smallpox
Respiratory	(Anthrax or Bronchitis or (ChestPain and [Age<50]) or Cough or Croup or DifficultyBreathing or Hemothorax or Hypoxia or Influenza or Legionnaires or LowerRespiratoryInfection or Pleurisy or Pneumonia or RespiratoryDistress or RespiratoryFailure or RespiratorySyncytialVirus or RibPain or ShortnessOfBreath or Wheezing) and not (GeneralExclusions or Cardiac or (ChestPain and Musculoskeletal) or Hyperventilation or Pneumothorax)	Anthrax (inhalational) Tularemia Plague (pneumonic)
Severe Illness or Death	CardiacArrest or CodeGroup or DeathGroup or (Hypotension and FeverPlus) or RespiratoryArrest or SepsisGroup or Shock	N/A

Appendix 2: Maryland Health and Medical Region Definitions

Health and Medical Region	Counties Reporting to ESSENCE
Regions 1 & 2	Allegany County Frederick County Garrett County Washington County
Region 3	Anne Arundel County Baltimore City Baltimore County Carroll County Harford County Howard County
Region 4	Caroline County Cecil County Dorchester County Kent County Queen Anne's County Somerset County Talbot County Wicomico County Worcester County
Region 5	Calvert County Charles County Montgomery County Prince George's County St. Mary's County

